

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An extracorporeal blood tube comprising:

a first end of the tube having a first inside diameter,

a narrow section of the tube having a ~~second~~ an inside diameter substantially narrower than the first inside diameter, wherein said narrow section comprises at least one half of an entire length of the blood tube, and

a tapered tube transition section between the first end and the narrow section, and a second end having an inside diameter at least as large as the first inside diameter.

2. (Currently Amended) An extracorporeal blood ~~circuit~~tube as in claim 1 wherein the narrow section is a center tube section.

3. (Cancelled).

4. (Currently Amended) An extracorporeal blood ~~circuit~~tube as in claim 1 wherein the transition section is no greater than twelve inches in length.

5. (Currently Amended) An extracorporeal blood ~~circuit~~tube as in claim 1 wherein a wall thickness of the tube is substantially constant along an entire length of the tube.

6. (Currently Amended) An extracorporeal blood ~~circuit~~tube as in claim 1 wherein the ~~second~~ inside diameter of the narrow section is at least 0.060 inch.

7. (Currently Amended) An extracorporeal blood ~~circuit-tube~~ as in claim 1 further comprising a pump section having a third inside diameter larger than the first inside diameter, and wherein a combined length of sections of the tube having the first inside diameter and the third inside diameter is less than one half the length of the tube.

8. (Currently Amended) An extracorporeal blood ~~circuit-tube~~ as in claim 1 further comprising a pump section having a third inside diameter larger than the second inside diameter, and wherein a combined length of sections of the tube having the first inside diameter and the third inside diameter is less than one half the length of the tube.

9. (Currently Amended) An extracorporeal blood ~~circuit-tube~~ as in claim 1 wherein the first end is connectable to a connector

10. (New) An extracorporeal blood tube as in claim 1 wherein the tube is a single lumen tube.

11. (New) An extracorporeal blood tube as in claim 1 wherein the tube has a smooth transition from the first end to the narrow section.

12. (New) An extracorporeal blood tube as in claim 3 wherein the first end and the second end are each connectable to a respective external connector.

13. (New) An extracorporeal blood tube as in claim 1 wherein the tube is formed of a biocompatible plastic.

14. (New) An extracorporeal blood tube as in claim 1 wherein the transition section is no greater than one foot in length and the inside diameter of the narrow section is narrower than 0.10 inches.

15. (New) An extracorporeal blood tube comprising:

a first end of the tube having a first end inside diameter and a first end outside diameter,

a narrow section of the tube having an inside diameter substantially narrower than the first end inside diameter and an outside diameter substantially narrower than the first end outside diameter, wherein said narrow section comprises at least one half of an entire length of the blood tube, and

a tapered tube transition section between the first end and the narrow section.

16. (New) An extracorporeal blood tube as in claim 15 wherein the tube has a wall thickness in the first end which is substantially the same as a wall thickness of the narrow section.

17. (New) An extracorporeal blood tube as in claim 15 wherein the tube has a substantially uniform wall thickness.

18. (New) An extracorporeal blood tube as in claim 15 wherein the tube is a single lumen tube.

19. (New) An extracorporeal blood tube comprising:

a first end of the tube having a first inside diameter,

a second end having an inside diameter at least as wide as the first inside diameter,
and

a narrow section of the tube between the first end and second end, and the narrow section having an inside diameter substantially narrower than the first inside diameter, wherein said narrow section comprises at least one half of an entire length of the blood tube.

20. (New) An extracorporeal blood tube as in claim 19 wherein an outside diameter of the narrow section of the tube is substantially narrower than an outside diameter of both the first end and the second end.

21. (New) An extracorporeal blood tube as in claim 19 wherein the tube has a wall thickness in the first end which is substantially the same as a wall thickness of the narrow section.

22. (New) An extracorporeal blood tube as in claim 21 wherein the tube has a substantially uniform wall thickness.

23. (New) An extracorporeal blood tube as in claim 19 wherein the tube is a single lumen tube.

24. (New) An extracorporeal blood tube as in claim 19 wherein the first end and second end are each adaptable to attach to a connector.

25. (New) An extracorporeal blood tube as in claim 19 wherein the tube is entirely a biocompatible plastic material.

26. (New) An extracorporeal blood tube as in claim 19 further comprising a transition section between the narrow section and each of the first end and second end.

27. (New) A method to pass blood through an extracorporeal blood passage comprising:

passing blood to the passage having a first inside diameter at a first end;

passing the blood through a middle portion of the blood passage downstream of the first end, wherein the middle portion has a cross-sectional passage area smaller than the first inside diameter;

passing blood through a second end of the passage having a second inside diameter at least as great as the first inside diameter.

28. New) A method as in claim 27 wherein the passage is a blood tube.